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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT SED Party Reorganization

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SUPPLEMENT

This document is hereby regraded to  
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letter of 16 October 1978 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Archivist of the United States.

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1. On orders of the SED Central Secretariat in Berlin, the Organization Section of the SED Headquarters has prepared new directives which will make the party more centralized in structure. These directives are being printed for distribution as far down as the local chapter (Ortsgruppe) level.
2. The top level of the party is the SED Central Headquarters in Berlin. Its executive committee is the Central Secretariat with fourteen members.
3. Directly subordinated are six provincial units (Landesverbände) comprising the Russian Zone. This includes the five provinces (Mecklenburg, Brandenburg, Thuringia, Saxony, and Saxony-Anhalt) and, on the same administrative party level, the city of Berlin.
  - a. In two of the provinces, Saxony and Thuringia, the Landesverband is divided into Bezirke. Within a province, the Bezirke are designated with Roman numerals.
  - b. In the other provinces, the Organization Section has discovered that subdivision into Bezirke is unnecessary. Instead, in case of necessity, the Organization Section has recommended that the provincial units send out specially trained instructors to "advise and guide" the next lower units. Stress is laid on the fact that such a measure is to be purely temporary, and that such instructors are to be in a purely advisory capacity and are to assume no responsibilities.
4. The next lower unit is the Kreis. Berlin, for example, had twenty Kreise within its Landesverband Berlin. A Kreis is designated by the name of the city or district in question.
5. The Kreis is normally divided into Stadtbezirke and, in rural areas, into Arbeitsgebiete.
  - a. In Berlin, each Kreis is divided directly into two to four Stadtbezirke.
  - b. In Leipzig, Dresden, Chemnitz, Zwickau, Halle, and Magdeburg, the city Kreise are subdivided into Stadtteile, each directed by a Stadtteilleiter. Each Stadtteil, in turn, is again divided into two to five Stadtbezirke.

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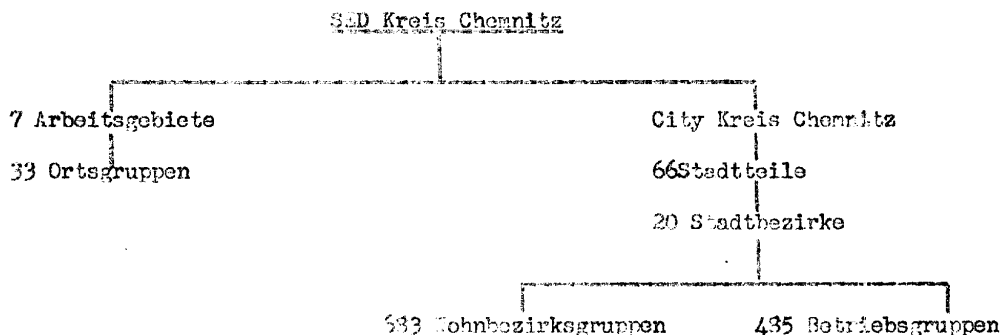
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- c. In smaller cities, the party has a so-called Stadtorganisation, which again is divided into Stadtbezirke. In still smaller communities, with only one to three thousand SED members, the whole city forms only one Stadtbezirk.
- d. In rural Kreis, if the number of local chapters (Ortsgruppe) reaches ten or more, the Kreis is subdivided into Arbeitsgebiete. These units, designated by Arabic numerals, are considered as subordinate organs of the Kreis organization, and chiefs of the Arbeitsgebiete are appointed by the chairman of a Kreis, rather than being elective officers. To avoid Nazi terminology, a Kreis chairman, an elective position, holds the title of Kreisverstand rather than Kreisleiter.
6. The lowest unit is the Ortsgruppe, the local chapter. However, the Ortsgruppe can also be divided into Untergliedernde Ortsgruppe, in towns with one hundred to one thousand SED members, and in cities as housing block or factory chapters.
- a. In rural areas, with less than one hundred SED members, the unit appears as Einfache Ortsgruppe.
- b. In urban and industrial areas, the titles are Wohnbezirksgruppe and Betriebsgruppe. Here appears also the SED basic principle of double membership: workers can be members of an SED Betriebsgruppe at the factory or business where they work, and can still be incorporated as members in the SED Wohnbezirksgruppe where they live. Double control and increased party influence is thus guaranteed.
7. The following is an example of this SED structure, from Kreis level downward, as set up for Kreis Chemnitz, which has 43,323 SED members.



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Comment: Report                      contains the original SED organization.)

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